

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A reversible ratchet-type wrench comprising:

a handle having a head extended from the handle and a web between said handle and the head; wherein the head has a hole in communication with a cavity in the web;

a compartment disposed in the web and having a first end in communication with the cavity and a second end in communication with an outside surface of the web;

a continue bridge disposed within the web defined between the first end of the compartment and the second end of the compartment;

a drive member rotatably mounted in the hole of the head, said drive member including a plurality of teeth formed on an outer periphery thereof;

a sliding pawl mounted in the cavity and including a first side with a plurality of ratchet teeth and a second side with a recess, the second side opposed from the first side, the recess defined by a wall having a first wall portion and a second wall portion spaced apart from the first wall portion;

a switch member including a turn-piece for manual operation and an actuating plate extended from the turn-piece and pivotably received in the second end of said compartment, wherein the actuating plate has a receptacle facing the recess in said pawl, said switch member being movable between a first position and a second position for sliding said pawl between a first location and a second location for changing ratcheting direction of the drive member;

a biasing means engaged between the receptacle in said switch member and the recess in said pawl, said biasing means operable to act in a direction that is coaxial with a central axis of the receptacle to urge the ratchet teeth of said pawl into engagement

with the teeth of said drive member, the biasing means alternating between bearing on the first wall portion and the second wall portion;

wherein said switch member is placed in the first position upon counterclockwise rotation of said handle, whereby said pawl engages a first portion of a wall defining said cavity and said drive member so as to prevent relative clockwise rotation between said drive member and said handle, and whereby said biasing means bears on the first wall portion of the recess of the ~~[[pawl]]~~ pawl, and wherein said switch member is removed from the first position upon clockwise rotation of said handle, whereby said pawl disengages said drive member and compresses said biasing means in a manner that changes the location of the center of said pawl relative to said drive member; and

wherein said switch member is placed in the second position upon clockwise rotation of said handle, whereby said pawl engages a second portion of the wall defining said cavity and said drive member so as to prevent relative counterclockwise rotation between said drive member and said handle, and whereby the biasing means bears on the second wall portion of the recess of the pawl, and wherein said switch member is removed from the second position upon counterclockwise rotation of said handle, whereby said pawl disengages said drive member and compresses said biasing means in a manner that changes the location of the center of said pawl relative to said drive member.

2.-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The wrench of claim 1 wherein said biasing means comprises an elongate member and an elastic member.

6. (Original) The wrench of claim 5 wherein the elastic member is at least partially disposed within the elongate member.

7. (Previously presented) The wrench of claim 5 wherein the elongate member has a first end bearing on one of the first wall portion and the second wall portion of the recess

in said pawl and a second end engaged with the receptacle in said switch member, wherein said pawl is operable to rotate about the first end of said elongate member.

8. (Previously presented) The wrench of claim 1 wherein the second side of said pawl is curved and is operable to engage a curved wall of said cavity.

9. (Currently amended) A reversible ratcheting mechanism comprising:

a housing having an upper face and a lower face with a circular hole extending from the upper face through the lower face, a circular compartment extending from the upper face, [[and]] a cavity connecting the circular compartment to the circular hole, and a continue bridge between the circular hole and the circular compartment; wherein a central axis of the circular hole is parallel to a central axis of the circular compartment;

a drive member rotatably mounted in the circular hole, said drive member including a plurality of teeth formed on an outer periphery thereof;

a sliding pawl mounted in the cavity, said sliding pawl including a first side with a plurality of ratchet teeth and a second side with a recess, the second side opposed from the first side, wherein the recess is defined by a wall having a first wall portion and a second wall portion spaced apart from the first wall portion;

a switch member including a turn-piece for manual operation and an actuating plate extended from the turn-piece and pivotably received in the compartment, wherein the actuating plate has a receptacle facing the recess in said pawl;

a biasing means having an elongate member with a longitudinal axis that is coaxial with a central axis of the receptacle and with a first end extending into the cavity and engaging the recess of said pawl and a second end disposed within the receptacle of said switch member, the first end of the elongate member alternating between bearing on the first wall portion and the second wall portion, and an elastic member operable to act in a direction that is coaxial with the central axis of the receptacle to urge the first end of the elongate member to bear on the wall defining the recess of said pawl such that the ratchet teeth of said pawl engage the teeth of said drive member;

said switch member being pivotably switchable between a first position and a second position for sliding said pawl between a first location and a second location for changing ratcheting direction of the drive member; wherein the first position has a clockwise ratcheting direction and a counterclockwise free rotation direction and the second position has a counterclockwise ratcheting direction and a clockwise free rotation direction;

wherein when the pawl is in the first location, the center of the pawl is located in a different location than the center of the pawl when the pawl is located in the second location, and wherein counterclockwise free rotation causes said pawl to disengage said drive member and compress the elastic element in a manner that changes the location of the center of said pawl relative to said drive member;

wherein when the pawl is in the second location, clockwise free rotation causes said pawl to disengage said drive member and compress the elastic element in a manner that changes the location of the center of said pawl relative to said drive member;

wherein said switch member is placed in the first position upon counterclockwise rotation of said handle, whereby said pawl engages a first portion of a wall defining said cavity and said drive member so as to prevent relative clockwise rotation between said drive member and said handle; and

wherein said switch member is placed in the second position upon clockwise rotation of said handle, whereby said pawl engages a second portion of the wall defining said cavity and said drive member so as to prevent relative counterclockwise rotation between said drive member and said handle.

10.-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The mechanism of claim 9 wherein the elastic member is at least partially disposed within the elongate member.

15. (Previously presented) The mechanism of claim 9 wherein said pawl is operable to rotate about the first end of said elongate member.

16. (Previously amended) The mechanism of claim 9 wherein the second side of said pawl is curved and is operable to engage a curved wall of said cavity.

17. (Previously presented) The mechanism of claim 9 wherein the wall defining the recess includes a third wall portion intermediate the first wall portion and the second wall portion, and wherein a distance between the third wall portion and a center of the recess is smaller than that between the center of the recess and each of the first wall portion and the second wall portion.

18. (Previously presented) The wrench of claim 1 wherein the wall defining the recess includes a third wall portion intermediate the first wall portion and the second wall portion, and wherein a distance between the third wall portion and a center of the recess is smaller than that between the center of the recess and each of the first wall portion and the second wall portion.